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*Young Living Essential Oils, LC*

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF UTAH, CENTRAL DIVISION

YOUNG LIVING ESSENTIAL OILS, LC., a Utah  
Limited Liability Company,

Plaintiff,

vs.

YOUNG LIFE RESEARCH, INC., a Michigan  
Corporation,

Defendant.

Civil Action No.: 2:17-cv-00083-EJF

**COMPLAINT**

Judge: Furse

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

Plaintiff Young Living Essential Oils, LC (“Young Living”), hereby complains and alleges against Defendant Young Life Research, Inc. (“Defendant”) as follows:

**THE PARTIES**

1. Young Living is a Utah limited liability company having its principal place of business at 3125 Executive Parkway, Lehi, Utah 84043.

2. Defendant is a Michigan corporation having its principal place of business at 900 Wilshire Drive, Suite 202-45, Troy, Michigan 48084.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

3. This is an action for trademark infringement and unfair competition under the Lanham Act, common law trademark infringement, violation of the Utah Deceptive Trade Practices Act, and unfair competition.

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action under, *inter alia*, 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question), 28 U.S.C. 1338(a) (trademarks), and 15 U.S.C. § 1121 (trademarks).

5. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Young Living's state law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a) because those claims arise from a common nucleus of operative facts alleged in Young Living's federal claims.

6. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant transacts business in this district (including by selling its infringing products in and into this district), actions giving rise to this lawsuit have occurred in this district, and Defendant has caused damages to Young Living in this district.

7. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because there is personal jurisdiction over Defendant, and because a substantial part of Defendant's acts and omissions giving rise to Young Living's claims occurred in this district.

### **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

#### **I. YOUNG LIVING**

8. Young Living was founded in 1994 by Gary Young.

9. Young Living sells essential oils and wellness solutions.

10. Young Living markets its essential oils through a world-wide network of independent distributors, most of whom are also consumers of Young Living's products.

11. Currently, Young Living has over one million independent distributors throughout the world.

12. In order to provide its essential oils to its customers, Young Living owns and operates farms in the United States (including in Utah) and throughout the world, on which farms Young Living grows many of the plants it uses to make its essential oils.

13. Essential oils are oils derived from plants which have many uses, including use in food flavoring, perfume industries, and in aromatherapy.

14. Young Living specializes in the manufacture, sale, and marketing of essential oils of natural plant origin suitable for aromatherapy and wellness practices.

15. Young Living sells a variety of individual essential oils, including lavender, peppermint, lemon, frankincense, and many others.

16. Young Living also sells proprietary blends of essential oils and products made with essential oils.

17. Young Living's efforts and accomplishments have contributed to its extraordinary reputation and goodwill, making Young Living a well-known and recognized name in, *inter alia*, the field of essential oil throughout the United States and the world.

18. Indeed, Young Living's enviable reputation and philosophy of providing the public with the highest quality essential oils has made it a leader in its field.

## **II. YOUNG LIVING'S MARKS**

19. Young Living has continuously used the YOUNG LIVING mark since at least 1994.

20. The United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") granted Young Living a federal registration (U.S. TM Reg. No. 4,222,043) for the YOUNG LIVING mark on October 9, 2012, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit A.

21. The USPTO granted Young Living a federal registration (U.S. TM Reg. No. 4,732,888) for the YOUNG LIVING stylized mark (shown below) on May 5, 2015, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit B.



22. The USPTO granted Young Living a federal registration (U.S. TM Reg. No. 2,736,573) for the YOUNG LIVING mark on July 15, 2003, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit C.

23. Young Living's 2,736,573 YOUNG LIVING mark has achieved incontestability status pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1065.

24. Young Living's YOUNG LIVING marks are referred to collectively as "Plaintiff's Marks."

25. In addition to federal trademark rights, Young Living also enjoys common law trademark rights in Plaintiff's Marks.

26. Young Living is the owner of Plaintiff's Marks.

27. Young Living's products have been widely advertised and extensively promoted under Plaintiff's Marks, and Plaintiff's Marks have become, through widespread and favorable public acceptance and recognition, assets of substantial value as a symbol of Young Living, its exceedingly high quality essential oils, and its goodwill.

28. Young Living enjoys remarkable success and an enviable reputation in its field due in large part to its use of and rights in Plaintiff's Marks.

29. Young Living has made great expenditures and sacrifices to achieve the success it now enjoys in Plaintiff's Marks.

30. Indeed, as a result of Young Living's favorable reputation and considerable investment in and promotion of Plaintiffs' Marks, Plaintiff's Marks have become an indicator of Young Living's high quality essential oils.

31. Young Living enforces its rights under Plaintiff's Marks in order to ensure Young Living's continued success and excellent reputation.

32. Plaintiff's Marks have been extensively and continuously advertised and promoted to the public by Young Living through various means and modes, including but not limited to, through Young Living's worldwide network of distributors, over the Internet (including at [youngliving.com](http://youngliving.com)), at trade shows, telephonically, and in-person.

33. By reason of such advertising and promotion, Young Living has sold essential oils under Plaintiff's Marks to over one million customers.

34. Because of Young Living's advertising and promotion under Plaintiff's Marks, the public has come to recognize Young Living's essential oils utilizing Plaintiff's Marks as solely emanating from Young Living.

35. As a result of Young Living's extensive use, advertising, promotional efforts, market recognition, commercial success, and wide distribution through its world-wide distribution channels, Plaintiff's Marks have become famous and are recognized as distinctive symbols of the highest quality of essential oils.

36. Plaintiff's Marks are an extremely valuable asset of Young Living.

## **II. DEFENDANT'S INFRINGING CONDUCT**

37. Defendant promotes goods improperly using Plaintiff's Marks.

38. Specifically, Defendant promotes and sells alleged natural nutrition products using the name Young Life Research through various means, including at [www.younliferesearch.net](http://www.younliferesearch.net).

39. Defendant has also used the following logo, which logo is confusingly similar to

Young Living's '885 stylized trademark:



40. The foregoing Young Life Research mark is referred to as the "Infringing Mark."

41. Defendant's use of the Infringing Mark is confusingly similar to Plaintiff's Marks.

42. Defendant's use of the Infringing Mark is likely to cause consumer confusion and a false association between Young Living and the goods offered by Defendant utilizing the Infringing Mark, falsely leading consumers to believe that the products emanate from the same source or that Young Living and Defendant are somehow affiliated.

43. On information and belief, such diversion has resulted in, and will continue to result in, substantial and irreparable harm to Young Living and to consumers in this district.

44. Defendant's offering to the public of goods under the Infringing Mark has been and is without permission or authority of Young Living. Indeed, despite repeated requests from Young Living that Defendant cease its infringing use of the Infringing Mark, Defendant infringing use has continued. Such public offerings are without license from Young Living.

45. The Infringing Mark has been used by Defendant and offered to the public utilizing this district as a forum for its infringing activities with knowledge that the Infringing Mark is not authorized by Young Living.

46. By using the Infringing Mark and offering goods for sale under the Infringing Mark, Defendant has misrepresented and falsely described to the general public the origin and source of Defendant's goods so as to deceive the public and deliberately create a likelihood of confusion, cause mistake, or deceive as to the affiliation, connection, or association of Defendant with Young Living, or as to the origin, sponsorship, or approval of Defendant's

goods or commercial activities by the ultimate purchaser as to both the source and sponsorship of Defendant's goods.

47. Defendant, with full knowledge of the notoriety of Plaintiff's Marks, intended to and did trade on the goodwill associated with Plaintiff's Marks, and has misled and will continue to confuse and mislead the public into assuming a connection between Young Living and Defendant by Defendant's offer to the public of its goods under the Infringing Mark.

48. The use by Defendant of the Infringing Mark constitutes a knowing and willful use of a false designation of origin and a false description or representation that wrongly and falsely designates Defendant's goods offered to the public by Defendant as originating from, or connected with, Young Living, and constitutes utilizing false descriptions or representations in commerce.

49. The imitation, reproduction, and other unauthorized use of the Infringing Mark causes irreparable injury to Young Living, including injury to its business reputation and goodwill.

50. Defendant's use of the Infringing Mark has, does, and is likely to permit Defendant to pass off its goods as those of Young Living, all to the detriment of Young Living, and to the unjust enrichment of Defendant.

51. Defendant's use of the Infringing Mark has caused, currently causes, and is likely to continue to cause, damage to Young Living by tarnishing the valuable reputation and image associated with Young Living and its products.

52. Defendant has further passed off its goods utilizing the Infringing Mark in interstate commerce as being affiliated with those of Young Living by Defendant's activities and many continuing misrepresentations to the consuming public, members of which are likely to and do believe that Defendant's goods utilizing the Infringing Mark are associated with Young Living.

53. Defendant's unlawful activity results in irreparable harm and injury to Young Living. Among other harms, it:

- a. Deprives Young Living of its right to determine the manner in which its goods and name are presented to the general public;
- b. Deceives the public as to the origin and sponsorship of Defendant's goods utilizing the Infringing Mark; and
- c. Wrongfully trades upon Young Living's reputation and exclusive rights in its trademarks.

54. Young Living is entitled to an injunction restraining Defendant, its officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all persons acting in concert with them, from engaging in any further acts in violation of Young Living's rights.

55. Young Living is further entitled to recover from Defendant the damages, including treble damages, interest, attorneys' fees, and costs it has sustained and will sustain and any gains, profits, and advantages obtained by Defendant as a result of Defendant's acts as alleged herein. At present, the amount of such damages, gains, profits, and advantages cannot be fully ascertained by Young Living.

### **CAUSES OF ACTION**

#### **COUNT I**

#### **(Trademark Infringement Under § 43(a)(1)(A) of the Lanham Act)**

56. Young Living realleges and incorporates by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs.

57. Defendant's use of the Infringing Mark is the improper use in commerce of words, terms, and/or names that are likely to cause confusion, mistake, or deception as to whether Defendant is affiliated, connected, or associated with Young Living (including Plaintiff's Marks) and/or as to whether Young Living originated, sponsored, or approved of Defendant's goods utilizing the Infringing Mark.



58. By so acting, Defendant has violated § 43(a) of the Lanham Act (15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)).

59. Young Living has been and will continue to be damaged by such wrongful actions.

60. Because Defendant's actions were intentional, willful and/or deliberate, Young Living is entitled to an award of Defendant's profits, any damages sustained by Young Living, and costs of this action, including treble damages under § 35(a) of the Lanham Act (15 U.S.C. § 1117(a)).

61. By reason of the foregoing, Young Living is further entitled to injunctive relief and monetary damages against Defendant.

**COUNT II**  
**(Trademark Infringement Under § 32 of the Lanham Act)**

62. Young Living realleges and incorporates by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs.

63. Young Living possesses valid federal trademark registrations for Plaintiff's Marks issued by the USPTO. *See* Exhibits A-C.

64. Defendant's actions as described above, including Defendant's unauthorized use of the Infringing Mark to promote its products, is likely to cause confusion, mistake, or deception as to the affiliation, connection, or association of Defendant with Young Living, or as to the origin, sponsorship, or approval of Defendant's products by Young Living. Defendant's conduct described herein constitutes trademark infringement of each of Plaintiff's Marks in violation of § 32 of the Lanham Act (15 U.S.C. § 1114).

65. Defendant's trademark infringement has caused and continues to cause damage and irreparable injury to the value and goodwill of Plaintiff's Marks, as well as damages and irreparable injury to Young Living's business, goodwill, and reputation.

66. Young Living has no adequate remedy at law because damages are continuing and difficult to ascertain.

67. Defendant's continued use of Plaintiff's Marks is deliberate, willful, fraudulent, and constitutes a knowing infringement of Plaintiff's Marks, making this case exceptional.

68. Because Defendant's actions were intentional, willful and/or deliberate, Young Living is entitled to an award of Defendant's profits, any damages sustained by Young Living, and costs of this action, including treble damages under § 35(a) of the Lanham Act (15 U.S.C. § 1117(a)).

69. By virtue of the foregoing, Young Living is entitled to injunctive relief and monetary damages against Defendant.

**COUNT III**  
**(False Advertising Under 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)(1)(B))**

70. Young Living realleges and incorporates by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs.

71. Defendant advertises its goods in commerce by extensively utilizing Plaintiff's Marks in order to create the false impression of a connection and/or affiliation between Young Living and Defendant.

72. Such use, and any use similar to it, by Defendant is materially false, misleading, confusing, and or deceptive.

73. Indeed, such use is meant to trade off of the goodwill associated with Plaintiff's Marks and to create confusion among customers.

74. Such use of Plaintiff's Marks by Defendant is likely to cause confusion and/or mistake as to the origin, association, or approval of Defendant's Infringing Mark and Young Living.

75. Defendant's false statements have caused injury to Young Living in an amount to be proven at trial.

76. The infringing activities of Defendant are willful and intentional, thereby justifying an award of exemplary and/or punitive damages.

**COUNT IV**  
**(Unfair Competition Under 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)(1))**

77. Young Living realleges and incorporates by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs.

78. Young Living has a protectable interest in Plaintiff's Marks.

79. Defendant's Infringing Marks are confusingly similar to Plaintiff's Marks.

80. Defendant's use of Plaintiff's Marks in commerce is likely to cause confusion in the consuming public as to the source, origin, and/or sponsorship of the Infringing Mark and Young Living.

81. Defendant's actions of unfair competition, as described herein, have caused injury to Young Living in an amount to be proven at trial.

82. The infringing activities of Defendant are willful and intentional, thereby justifying an award of exemplary and/or punitive damages.

**COUNT V**  
**(Trademark Dilution Under 15 U.S.C. § 1125(c))**

83. Young Living realleges and incorporates by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs.

84. By virtue of many years of successful sales and use in commerce, Plaintiff's Marks have become famous.

85. Defendant's use of Plaintiff's Marks within the Infringing Mark has and will continue to cause dilution of Plaintiff's Marks.

86. Defendant's dilution of Young Living's rights in Plaintiff's Marks has caused injury to Young Living in an amount to be proven at trial.

87. The infringing activities of Defendant are willful and intentional, thereby

justifying an award of exemplary and/or punitive damages.

**COUNT VI**  
**(Common Law Trademark Infringement)**

88. Young Living realleges and incorporates by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs.

89. Plaintiff's Marks are distinctive and have acquired secondary meaning.

90. Defendant's actions, as alleged above, infringe Young Living's common law trademark rights under federal common law, Utah common law, and constitute acts of unfair competition.

91. By reason of the foregoing, Young Living is entitled to injunctive relief and monetary damages against Defendant.

92. The infringing activities of Defendant are willful and intentional, thereby justifying an award of exemplary and/or punitive damages.

**COUNT VI**  
**(Utah Deceptive Trade Practice – U.C.A. § 13-11A-3)**

93. Young Living realleges and incorporates by this reference all of the foregoing paragraphs.

94. By using the Infringing Mark, Defendant has passed off its goods as those of Young Living.

95. Defendant knowingly made a false representation as to the source, sponsorship, approval, or certification of its goods by its use of the Infringing Mark with knowledge of Plaintiff's Marks.

96. The foregoing misconduct of Defendant constitutes deceptive trade practices under Utah Code Annotated § 13-11A-3.

97. Young Living is entitled to recover damages to fairly and reasonably compensate it for Defendant's conduct.

98. Young Living is entitled to prevent, restrain, and enjoin Defendant from current and future uses of Plaintiff's Marks.

99. Young Living is entitled to an award of its attorneys' fees and its costs for being required to file and prosecute this action pursuant to Utah Code Annotated § 13-11a-4(2)(c).

100. Young Living has no adequate remedy at law, has suffered and is continuing to suffer irreparable harm as a result of Defendant's acts, and is, therefore, entitled to preliminary and permanent injunctive relief to enjoin Defendant from further misconduct.

**COUNT VIII  
(Unjust Enrichment)**

101. Young Living realleges and incorporates by this reference all of the foregoing paragraphs.

102. Defendant has benefited from the improper, unfair, and unauthorized use of Young Living's exclusive trademark rights and goodwill attendant thereto, as set forth above.

103. Defendant has knowledge and fully appreciates the benefits it has received from Young Living as a result of such actions.

104. Defendant would be unjustly enriched if it were permitted to retain the proceeds obtained from such actions.

105. Equity and good conscience dictate that Defendant be required to account for and turn over to Young Living an amount equal to the value of the benefits conferred upon it.

**COUNT IX  
(Unfair Competition – U.C.A. § 13-5a-103)**

106. Young Living realleges and incorporates by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs.

107. Defendant's conduct as described herein is unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent.

108. Defendant's conduct as described herein has resulted in the material diminution in the value of Plaintiff's Marks.

109. Defendant's conduct as described herein infringes upon the rights of Young Living in and to Plaintiff's Marks.

110. The infringing activities of Defendant are willful and intentional, thereby justifying an award of exemplary and/or punitive damages.

**JURY DEMAND**

Young Living hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Young Living demands judgment against Defendant as follows:

A. Preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendant, and all other persons participating or acting in concert with it, from infringing any of Young Living's rights in Plaintiff's Marks;

B. Preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendant, and all other persons participating or acting in concert with it, from using any marks similar to Plaintiff's Marks that are likely to cause confusion or mistake as to whether Defendant is authorized by or affiliated with Young Living and as to whether Defendant's goods utilizing the Infringing Mark have been authorized or sponsored by Young Living;

C. Preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendant, and all other persons participating or acting in concert with it, from falsely advertising in any manner that causes confusion as to the origin, source, or approval between Young Living and Defendant's Infringing Products;

D. Preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendant, and all other persons participating or acting in concert with it, from falsely advertising the Infringing Products in a manner that is likely to cause confusion or mistake as to whether Defendant is authorized by or affiliated with Young Living and as to whether Defendant's Infringing Products have been authorized or sponsored by Young Living;

E. Preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendant, and all other persons participating or acting in concert with it, from engaging in unfair competition, either under federal law or U.C.A. § 13-5a-103;

F. Preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendant, and all other persons acting in concert with it, from making a false representation as to the source, sponsorship, approval, or certification of goods utilizing the Infringing Mark;

G. Preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendant, and all other persons acting in concert with it, from making a false representation as to affiliation, connection, association with, or certification by another, of good utilizing the Infringing Mark;

H. Preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendant, and all other persons acting in concert with it, from diluting Plaintiff's Marks;

F. An order of the Court directing Defendant to deliver up to Young Living all literature, advertisements, business forms, signs, and any other representations, regardless of form, which are in, or come to be in, Defendant's possession, custody, or control and which bear the Infringing Mark or any confusingly similar variant, and an order from the Court compelling Defendant to notify its customers, agents, and representatives that the Infringing Mark or any confusingly similar variant is not connected with Young Living;

G. An order from the Court directing Defendant to provide an accounting of all revenues and profits gained by Defendant while engaging in the acts complained of in this Complaint;

H. Awarding Young Living its actual damages, and awarding Young Living any additional damages that the Court deems just and equitable under the circumstances of the case;

I. Awarding Young Living treble damages in accordance with § 35 of the Lanham Act (15 U.S.C. § 1117) on the claim asserted under § 43(a) of the Lanham Act (15 U.S.C. § 1125(a));

J. Establishment of a constructive trust consisting of profits from or obtained by Defendant's wrongful acts, to be held for the benefit of Young Living;

K. Awarding Young Living damages to which it is entitled based upon Defendant's unjust enrichment;

L. Awarding Young Living prejudgment interest at the rate established under 26 U.S.C. § 6621(a)(2) from the date of service of this Complaint through the date of judgment;

M. Awarding Young Living its allowable costs and attorneys' fees, including but not limited to, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1117 and Utah Code Annotated § 13-11A-4(2)(c); and

N. Awarding Plaintiff such other and/or further relief as is just and equitable.

DATED this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRTON | McCONKIE

By: /s/James T. Burton  
James T. Burton  
Joshua S. Rupp

Attorneys for Plaintiff  
*Young Living Essential Oils, LC*